

84r

syria R-2

damascus, august 2 (upi)--syria executed five persons, including four palestinians, saturday for taking part in a series of bomb attacks against government and american offices.

the official damascus radio said the five were hanged at dawn four days after syria's state security court sentenced them to death on charges of being members of the outlawed arab communist organization.

three others, including a woman, were also sentenced to death but the court later commuted the punishment

to life imprisonment at hard labor.

the arab communist organization has claimed responsibility for a number of bomb attacks in syria, lebanon and kuwait over the past two years, including blasts at the u. s. information office in damascus and the american life insurance co. in beirut.

authorities in the three countries broke the group up last month, making a series of arrests in each capital.

those arrested in beirut and kuwait have not been brought to trial yet.

government sources said the executions were carried out inside the al kala prison in damascus.

eun651 epa325

0743 :death 2 damascus: (epa 321):

in accordance with legal procedure, the sentences issued by the court and the presidential decree confirming them were read over to the convicts before they were executed.

the five men were four palestinians and one syrian.

the arab communist organisation has claimed responsibility for several incidents in which foreign establishments in both syria and lebanon were targets of bomb attacks.

reuter/adb/agm